THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) The details of welfare schemes being implementing by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for Backward and weaker sections (SCs, STs and OBCs) of society in Himachal Pradesh alongwith the details of amount released during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given in the Annexure [See Appendix 189, Annexure No. 84]. There is no provision for allocating funds state/district-wise.

Anganwadis in Tribal and Hilly Areas

† 3166. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) what are the criteria of population and other criteria for opening Anganwadis in Tribal and Hilly areas;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of Anganwadi centres in certain development blocks of Mandi district in Himachal Pradesh is very low in proportion to population; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefore and by when Government are considering to open up new Anganwadi centres in these development blocks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) According to the information furnished by the Department of Women and Child Development in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, who are concerned with this subject matter, the criteria for setting up of an Anganwadi Centre in tribal areas is 'one Anganwadi Centre for a population of 700'.

(b) and (c) The Integrated Child Development Services Schemes (ICDS) projects were sanctioned over the years starting from 1975-76. The available census figures were used for sanction of the Anganwadi Centres. Over the years new Anganwadi Centre in proportion to the population have not been sanctioned. New Anganwadi Centres would be sanctioned depending on the availability of the resources.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.